developmental activities of tea industry including small growers. In order to encourage small tea growers to take up tea cultivation, the Board has been operating a special input and interest subsidy scheme. Under this scheme capital subsidy @ Rs. 15,000 per hectare is provided towards cost of inputs such as planting material, fertilizers etc. In addition to this interest subsidy on bank loan is also provided @ 5.1% p.a. subject to maximum loan amount of Rs. 16,000 per hecture.

Besides, special assistance is also extended by the Tea Board to small growers for setting up of tea nurseries, demonstration plots, clonal multiplicational centres, training centres, free advisory services, setting up of cooperative tea factories etc.

It has been proposed to include two new schemes for the benefit of small tea growers viz. Tea Area Infilling Subsidy Scheme, and Special area development schemes for U.P. and Himachal Pradesh, during 1994-95.

India's export share

1886. DR. NARRE DDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is India's export share in the total world trade ;

(b) what steps are being proposed to push up India's exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) India's share in the world export during the year 1991 is estimated at *0.5%.

(*Economic Survey 1993-94).

(b) In order to increase exports the Government have taken major steps for liberalisation of trade which include promotion of exportlinked imports, reduction of import licensing, strengthening of export incentives, removal of procedural irritants through simplification of policy and procedures and pruning of negative list of exports. In the Budget for 1994-95 these measures have been further re-inforced by introduction of convertibility of rupee on the current account reduction in customs and excise duties and rationalisation of their structure etc. Also exporters have been allowed to retain a higher percentage (from 15% to 20%) of their foreign exchange earnings to enable them to avoid conversion cost for making payments for imports. In the case of 100% export oriented units in Export Processing Zones, Electronic Hardware Technology Parks and Software Technology Parks the limit of retention of foreign exchange earnings has been enhanced to 50%.

Falling image of Footwear Manufacturers and leather industry in Kuwait

1887. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Governments has been drawn to the report appearing in Hindu dated the 28th December, 1993 regarding failing image of Indian footwear manufacturers and leather industry in Kuwait and the possibility of its losing the entire gulf market ; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government's attention has been drawn to the report.

(b) The Indian Embassy in Kuwait had taken up the matter with the Kuwaiti authorities. It appears that a design on the soles of a particular consignment of shoes was misconstrued by some parties. Our Embassy has informally learnt that the Kuwaiti authorities are treating the matter as closed.

Workshop at Bangalore on Floriculture

1888. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) wheher Government are aware of the consensus at the workshop recently